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Calling James Bond

In his book called "The Craft of Intelligence," former CIA Chief Allen Dulles says that James Bond, the fictional spy, bears no resemblance to a real-life agent. Last Tuesday John A. McCone, Mr. Dulles' successor in the Central Intelligence Agency, briefed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for several hours on the situation in South Viet Nam. Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) afterwards told reporters he was disturbed by Buddhist demonstrations but foresaw no likelihood of another coup.

Within hours of this statement, Lt. Gen. Khanh was back on top. Maybe Sen. Fulbright misunderstood Mr. McCone, or maybe the CIA was asleep. We prefer to believe that Mr. Dulles was the one who made a mistake. James Bond would have been the right man for the job in South Viet Nam.